

November 3-5, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

**The Detroit News: Editorial: Don't alter Michigan's course; Voters should be sure to mark the nonpartisan and proposal sections of the ballot**

"... As we have said before, the state Supreme Court should stay true to its current course of preserving the rule of law. The three candidates we've endorsed would do that. Bridget McCormack and incumbents Brian Zahra and Stephen Markman will use their post to sustain the state Constitution and avoid legislating from the bench."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Detroit News: Campaign spending in Michigan hits \$175M; Ballot issues draw most cash, but court, House races add to total**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Election 2012: Our Endorsements (see Courts section)**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press Endorsements (see Courts section)**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Truth Squad Fact Check: Dems' ad does not reflect what justices ruled on workplace rape**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Truth Squad Fact Check: She tried to 'help free a terrorist'? Ad's claim ignores the U.S. rule of law**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Liberal or conservative? Michigan Supreme Court control at stake**

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran the Lansing State Journal, the Macomb Daily, and the Morning Sun.

**Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Recapping LSJ's endorsements (see Courts section)**

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The editorial is available by subscription only.**

**The MiLW Blog: Republican attack ad in MSC race draws NYT blog's attention**

[Full story](#)

**The Oakland Press: Michigan Supreme Court candidates want to change how they're nominated**

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the News-Herald/Southgate.

**Jackson Citizen Patriot: Republican Party bus tour rally in Jackson that includes Gov. Rick Snyder moved outdoors**

[Full story](#)

**Muskegon Chronicle: Michigan GOP's 'Believe in Michigan -- Jobs First' bus tour brings candidates to Muskegon**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: New hearing ordered in Detroit fireman's death**

"The Michigan appeals court has ordered a new hearing to determine the prison sentence for a man whose fire killed a Detroit firefighter. Mario Willis was sentenced to at least 41 years in prison for second-degree murder."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Associated Press: New hearing ordered in Detroit fireman's death**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit.**

**The Detroit News: St. Joseph County makes ballot fix in court race**

"... St. Joseph County officials tell the Sturgis Journal that the District 3 appeals court race shouldn't be on the ballot. St. Joseph County now is in District 1.... Despite the mistake, there should no practical impact on the judicial candidates in districts 1 or 3. All are running unopposed."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Sturgis Journal: Ballot error in Court of Appeals race; St. Joseph County voters are being advised that there is an error on the ballot for next Tuesday's general election**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Macomb County power struggle continues over breakdown of costs in road budget**

"The Macomb County Board of Commissioners won a battle this week in the Michigan Court of Appeals over a contract dispute with Executive Mark Hackel, but the ongoing power struggle continues after the two sides recently sparred over a more detailed breakdown of costs in the road department budget."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Morning Sun: Dennis Lennox: Macomb lawsuit should change county government**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Ousted Judge Sylvia James in the running for her former job**

"Voters in the tri-county area will decide several judicial races when they go to the polls Tuesday. Perhaps the most interesting will be the Inkster 22nd District judgeship, in which ousted Judge Sylvia James is running for the seat she was booted from."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Macomb Daily: Macomb Probate Court race features Marlinga, Harrison**

[Full story](#)

**The MiLW Blog: Eve of election finds few real judicial races in southeast Michigan**

[Full story](#)

**Midland Daily News: 16 Wayne County judges face 1 challenger Tuesday**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: 2 candidates for Oakland County Circuit Court say they are mystified over who is paying for TV ads**

"Two Oakland County judicial candidates are waging what appears to be the most expensive circuit court race in the country to oust an incumbent -- spending \$2.2 million on TV ads alone -- and yet the candidates have spent a mere \$12,674 from their own coffers and raised less than \$50,000."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Oakland Press: Attack ads muddy Oakland County Circuit Court races**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Judge denies former state rep's appeal to get on the ballot**

"... [Bette] Scott, a former state representative from Detroit, tried to run as an independent in the District 1 race that pits Grosse Pointe Shores Mayor Pro Tem Dan Schulte, a Republican, against Democrat Brian Banks ... But on Friday, Judge Robert Ziolkowski denied her appeal, saying it's too late to add Scott's name to ballots."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Highers brothers look for work, reconnect with family as they adjust to life out of prison after 25 years**

"... [Wayne County Circuit Judge Lawrence] Talon ruled the evidence was strong enough to grant the [Highers] brothers a new trial. The county prosecutor has appealed Talon's ruling [to the Court of Appeals], and that decision is pending. If they lose, prosecutors have said they will put the brothers on trial again."

[Full story](#)

### **Ann Arbor.com: Prosecutor says Judge Tim Connors should recuse himself after campaign donations from attorneys in case**

"For the second time in as many weeks, Judge Tim Connors is being accused of a conflict of interest for accepting campaign donations from attorneys appearing before him in court. The accusation comes from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, who filed a motion in Washtenaw County's 22nd Circuit Court to have Connors recused from a case last week."

[Full story](#)

### **Ann Arbor Journal: SALEM TOWNSHIP: Michigan Supreme Court takes no action on Nov. 6 rezoning ballot question**

"The Michigan Supreme Court denied an application to change a Court of Appeals decision on a Nov. 6 ballot question asking whether to rezone a 91.6-acre parcel. On Oct. 8, the Court of Appeals denied developer Salem Springs LLC's application to appeal a circuit court decision to not block the ballot question."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Macomb County Legal News: High court takes pass on zoning dispute (third article)**

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Livingston County circuit judge backs Marran for probate bench**

Livingston County Circuit Court Judge Mike Hatty writes "I recommend Lori Marran to the people of Livingston County to serve as our next Probate Court judge. Lori Marran possesses all of the essential experience, skill, knowledge and compassion that are so necessary to properly fulfill the duties of the office of Probate Court judge."

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily News/Iron Mountain: Judge, county board races in Iron County**

"Iron County voters will be deciding on two county-wide offices, two county commissioner seats, two county-wide proposals, and various city and township races in the Nov. 6 general election. For the non-partisan position of probate court judge, incumbent Judge C. Joseph Schwedler faces opposition from attorney Mark D. Tousignant."

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily News/Iron Mountain: Editorial: Sobriety court a welcome addition**

"In the face of a seeming tidal wave of drug problem challenges washing across Marquette County, local officials ranging from courts and police to the county board of commissioners and health care providers are looking for ways to reverse this destructive trend."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Sobriety court benefits community (second article)**

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The editorial is available by subscription only.**

### **Detroit Legal News: 36th District Court to be closed Election Day (third article)**

"The 36th District Court will be closed to the public on Tuesday Nov. 6. Only felony arraignment hearings will be held. The court will reopen on Wednesday Nov. 7."

[Full story](#)

### **The Flint Journal: Candidate for Flint district judge ordered to repay \$16,500 for improper fee**

"A Flint-area attorney campaigning to become a Flint district judge has been ordered to pay back more than \$16,000 after a judge ruled he improperly accepted a contingency payment for his work. The order was filed against Glenn Cotton by Genesee Probate Judge Jennie Barkey on Nov. 1 after Barkey ruled that the \$16,500 contingency he accepted to represent his client Annie Lee was inappropriate."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Western Wayne residents dominate circuit court race**

"On Nov. 6, voters will elect three new judges to the Wayne County Third Circuit Court.... The candidates are Karen Braxton of Canton Township, Kevin Cox of Livonia, Dana Hathaway of Grosse Pointe Farms, Brian Morrow of Northville, Kelly Ann Ramsey of Livonia and John J. Sullivan of Northville."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Here are our picks for key races (see Wayne County Circuit Court)**

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: 44th District Court candidates make final pitch; Winner will replace retiring Judge Sawicki**

"Royal Oak voters will decide Tuesday what type of experience matters to them when they cast their vote in the 44th District Court race between Carlo Ginotti and Derek Meinecke."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Crowd hears 46th court hopefuls**

"A standing-room-only crowd packed recently into the board room at the Southfield Public Schools administration office to hear the two candidates for judge in 46th District Court discuss everything from their approach to crime to their temperament. Both attorneys in private practice, Bill Seikaly and Debra Nance are vying to fill the position being vacated by Judge Susan Moiseev, who is retiring."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Sobriety Court Foundation holds inaugural breakfast**

"The Ingham County Sobriety Court Foundation, formed in 2007, held its inaugural breakfast early on October 26th at the Country Club of Lansing, in Lansing.... Hon. Rosemarie Aquilina, then 55th District Court judge and now 30th Circuit Court judge, established the Foundation to support the local sobriety courts in meeting the needs of their participants."

[Full story](#)

### **Kalamazoo Gazette: Kalamazoo-area voters to decide wide range of ballot proposals and races for office in Tuesday's general election**

"... All judges on the ballot in Kalamazoo County are unopposed. In neighboring Van Buren County, voters will fill a six-year term on the circuit court bench with either Kathleen Brickley, who was appointed in April to replace retired Judge William C. Buhl, or [attorney] Matt Cooper ... Two new judges will be elected in St. Joseph County, where attorneys David C. Tomlinson, of Colon, and Christine Yancey, of Mendon, are competing for the probate court judgeship ... and attorneys Matt Davidson, of Centreville, and Robert K. Pattison, of Sturgis, are seeking the district court judgeship."

[Full story](#)

#### **Also see:**

### **Courier-Leader/Paw Paw: Newly-appointed Circuit Judge Kathleen Brickley challenged by Paw Paw Attorney Matthew Cooper**

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Brown Bag Lunch event scheduled in Eastpointe**

"The Macomb County Bar Association's Brown Bag Lunch Series is moving to Eastpointe this week. Area attorneys are encouraged to bring their lunch to 38th District Court at noon on Thursday, November 8 for an informal get-together with Judge Carl Gerds and his staff."

[Full story](#)

### **Midland Daily News: Sportsman's Club cancels sight-in days, awaits state Supreme Court's decision in key case**

"... Kevin Blackhurst, Midland County Sportsman's Club president, said that advertising events such as sight-in days might jeopardize the club's nonprofit tax status, while a legal case headed for the Michigan Supreme Court threatens any club deemed to conduct business or commercial activity, perhaps including non-member range fees."

[Full story](#)

### **The Mining Journal/Marquette: Hill, Hyde in face off in probate judge race**

"Two people will appear on Tuesday's ballot in the race for Marquette County Probate Judge. Assistant Marquette County prosecutor Cheryl Hill and George Hyde, the county's chief juvenile court referee, advanced through the August primary election."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Disbarred prosecutor loses appeal at high court**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has turned down an appeal from former top drug prosecutor [Karen Plants] who was disbarred for allowing perjury at a 2005 trial. The court won't upset the punishment ordered last spring by the Attorney Discipline Board."

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press: Program helps mothers kick addictions, win back children WITH VIDEO**

"A 44-year-old mother left her 2-year-old son alone in a car with a crack pipe and an alcohol-spiked juice bottle earlier this month while she allegedly went off to buy crack cocaine.... But to people who work in Oakland County courts, rehabilitation centers and Oakland Family Services, which all deal with mothers at various levels of addiction, this is not so shocking."

[Full story](#)

### **Press & Guide/Dearborn: Council votes to pay extra legal bills**

"Legal bills have been mounting for the city, prompting a City Council vote to pay more money to the Miller Canfield law firm. The council voted 5-0 at a special meeting Oct. 23 to pay up to \$15,000 for attorneys' services on three projects, including dealing with a settlement awarded to former 19th District Court employee Julie (Pucci) Hultgren in a lawsuit against Judge Mark Somers."

[Full story](#)

### **The State News/East Lansing: Prepping the Polls; City officials, political candidates focused on last-minute strategy as crucial election approaches**

"... East Lansing 54B District Court: Candidates state Rep. Mark Meadows and attorney Andrea Larkin also are focusing on face-to-face communication with the voters in the final days before the election."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Prosecutor, magistrate-referee run for judge**

"... John B. Daugherty and John Mead will square off for [Benzie County probate judge] on Tuesday. Daugherty is Benzie's current prosecutor, and Mead is both a district court magistrate and a circuit court referee in Benzie and Manistee counties. The winner will replace Nancy Kida, who retires this year after 18 years on the bench."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Our endorsements**

"... Probate Court: The two candidates running for Grand Traverse County Probate Court Judge, Melanie Stanton and Kirsten Keilitz, both have the legal experience for the job. But in terms of the intangibles so crucial in probate court we believe Kirsten Keilitz has the demeanor and emotional balance needed to best serve those who rely on the court."

[Full story](#)

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Deadbeat parents cost taxpayers \$53 billion; Parents with custody owed more than \$100 billion in unpaid child support**

"Over \$100 billion is owed in unpaid child support -- nearly half of that to taxpayers supporting children on public assistance. According to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, \$108 billion in total back payments was owed to parents with custody of children in 2009."

[Full story](#)